

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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O 202215Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5519

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 02425

EXDIS

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

PASS DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ZURHELLEN

E.O. 11652: EXGDS1

TAGS: SREF, CB

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR ASYLUM FROM GKR DIPLOMATS

REF: STATE 088990

1. THERE ARE NO RPT NO ICEM OR UNHCR PERSONNEL IN AUSTRALIA, NO RPT NO US VOLAGS, AND GOA IS RELUCTANT TO ASSIST NEARIN. DFA HAS PREPARED RECOMMENDATIONS TO PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM ON RELIEF IN INDOCHINA AND ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAMESE REFUGEES, BUT PRIME MINISTER HAS SO FAR BEEN UNWILLING TO MAKE DECISION ON MATTER. NATIONAL APPEAL FOR FUNDS FOR PRIVATE RELIEF HAS SO FAR HAD LITTLE RESPONSE. WE HAVE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM OF DEALING WITH CASE OF ONE CAMBODIAN FAMILY. THEREFORE, EM-BASSY WILL EXPEND THE \$1,000 AUTHORIZED AS NECESSARY TO ASSIST HIM AND HIS FAMILY.

2. NEARIN IS DEEPLY SUSPICIOUS ABOUT THE ATTITUDES OF THE WHITLAM GOVERNMENT TOWARDS INDOCHINA AND DOES NOT RPT NOT WISH TO REMAIN IN AUSTRALIA. HIS SUSPICIONS ARE NOT WITHOUT FOUNDATION. PROMINENT LEFTISTS ARE GLOATING OVER COMMUNIST SUCCESSES IN INDOCHINA AND HAVE PUBLICLY QUESTIONED THE NEED TO EVACUATE ANY REFUGEES FROM VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA. NEARIN HAS ASKED FOR OUR ASSISTANCE IN RELOCATING TO THE
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UNITED STATES AND THIS IS WELL KNOWN IN CANBERRA DIPLOMA-

TIC AND POLITICAL CIRCLES. OUR FAILURE TO ASSIST HIM AND HIS FAMILY WOULD HAVE A VERY ADVERSE IMPACT HERE, EXPECIALLY WHEN CONTRASTED WITH THE GENEROUS TREATMENT BEING ACCORD- THE GKR DIPLOMATS WHO DEFECTED TO THE GRUNK BY THE PRO-SIHANOUK MALTESE HIGH COMMISSIONER. SUCH FAILURE WOULD PROVIDE FRESH AMMUNITION TO THOSE IN AUSTRALIA WHO BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT STAND BY ITS FRIENDS. I URGE THE DEPARTMENT TO MOVE QUICKLY TO CUT THROUGH THE PROCEDURAL OBSTACLES, SECURE THE AUTHORIZATION NECESSARY TO PAROLE THIS MAN, HIS WIFE, FIVE CHILDREN, AND HIS NEPHEW, INTO THE US, AND ADVANCE THE FUNDS TO COVER THEIR TRAVEL.

3. DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT NEARIN CASE IS THE PRELUDE TO WHAT WE CAN EXPECT IF GVN FALLS. GVN EMBASSY STAFF AND DEPENDENTS IN CANBERRA NUMBER OVER 50. THERE ARE, IN ADDITION, SEVERAL HUNDRED VIETNAMESE STUDENTS IN AUSTRALIA, WHOSE INTENTIONS ARE NOT YET KNOWN. HOWEVER, MOST OF THESE WILL NOT WISH TO RELOCATE IN AUSTRALIA AND WILL BE SEEKING OUR ASSISTANCE IN MOVING TO THE US OR ELSEWHERE.
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